

International Trade Law and Policy for Africa's Development

tralac Certificate Course:
April–July 2020



For more information visit the tralac website: www.tralac.org

Course introduction	2
Learning Modalities	2
Learning Outcomes	3
Fees and scholarships	3
How to apply for the course	3
Course Outline	4



International Trade Law and Policy for Africa's Development Certificate Course

The Trade Law Centre (tralac) is pleased to present the 2020 Certificate Course - International Trade Law and Policy for Africa's Development. The course, consisting of three modules, to be offered from **20 April 2020** provides a comprehensive coverage of International Trade Law and Policy in the 21st Century, from an African development perspective.

Who should attend the course?

- Mid-level and senior trade policy officials from Africa's national governments, regional and continental organisations
- Experienced trade policy and law practitioners from non-state organisations, including the private sector in Africa.

This tralac certificate course is being offered at a time of uncertainty about future trade governance. The World Trade Organisation (WTO) is facing significant challenges – the appetite for multilateral trade governance solutions is at a low point. Since December 2019 the DSU does not have a functional Appellate Body. The lack of leadership and common purpose from key trading nations indicates that systemically all is not well in the WTO. Although trade has in recent decades lifted many millions across the world out of poverty, inequality and exclusion are still defining features of global trade and economic development. A fundamental rethink of the trade policy

narrative and possible future international trade governance pathways is necessary.

The trade-development nexus requires careful consideration. Trade policy connections to other areas of economic policy (including industrial, fiscal, labour market, education and macroeconomic policies) have to be considered for their contribution to promoting inclusive growth and equitable distribution of gains and losses. This course aims to build capacity for trade law and policy making to support development outcomes for Africa. This means addressing marginalised and excluded groups; including women, youth, informal cross-border traders and many other groups.

Despite these global trade governance developments there is renewed interest in trade and regional integration in Africa. The African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) has entered into force. Tariff concessions and rules of origin, as well as specific commitments for the priority services sectors are, however, still being negotiated. Phase 2 of the negotiations, covering investment, competition and intellectual property are to start soon. This course will focus specifically on issues relevant to the AfCFTA and Africa's broader trade and integration agenda, and also include a discussion on Africa's future global trade relations.

Learning Modalities

Interactive, participatory learning processes, that form the foundation for adult learning, are followed in this course.

Debates and discussions are actively encouraged; exploration of “wicked” trade law and policy problems will facilitate collective learning as we engage Africa’s trade and integration agenda. Participants are encouraged to share experiences, trade policy challenges and success stories.

The course consists of three residential modules and an *inter-modular* e-learning programme. Before the first residential module participants will be required to complete a preparatory online work programme (6 hours of work will be required, and a short assignment will be submitted and assessed - feedback will be provided to each participant). The pre-course programme is designed so that participants are able to fully engage during the residential programme.

All three one-week residential modules will take place in Cape Town. Following residential modules 1 and 2, participants will continue with the inter-modular programme, and do further reading and study, and then make a presentation (via Skype) following each of these modules. Six hours of preparatory work will be required for each inter-modular programme. At the end of module 3, there will be an oral exam – each participant will have a 30 minute slot. Participants who successfully complete the course will receive a tralac certificate and be invited to join the tralac alumni network.

Learning Outcomes

On completion of the course, you will:

- Have a better understanding of the principles of international trade law and policy, in a global context, and specifically as they apply in an African context

- Have an understanding of the complexity of trade and trade-related policy linkages, and of the trade-development nexus
- Have developed tools to analyse trade performance and trade law and policy developments
- Be able to review and appraise current trade law and policy developments, with due recognition of the complexity of trade and trade governance in the 21st century
- Be able to contribute to the development and articulation of a trade policy and regional integration strategy for your country to support development outcomes

Fees and scholarships

tralac has limited scholarship funding from our donors. Applicants who wish to be considered for a scholarship will be requested to provide a motivation to receive funding support. In our selection, we will consider specifically access for women and participants from least developed countries. Scholarship funding will not be available to participants in the private sector.

Successful applicants will be requested to make a set contribution of **ZAR 2000** towards the course. The contribution fee will cover a portion of the participants expenses.

How to apply for the course?

To apply for this course please click on the following link: [Online application form](#)

Deadline for Applications: Monday 9 March 2020.

Applicants can expect to be informed of their application status by the close of business on 16 March 2020.

Training Course Outline

Module 1: International Trade Policy and Law in the 21st Century – foundational disciplines

Dates	20 – 24 April 2020
Topics	<p>International trade: defining features</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Global trade and investment trends: Key indicators and metrics: trade in goods (commodities, industrial goods), tariffs, non-tariff barriers, trade in services (review of restrictiveness indices for specific sectors), investment flows ▪ Intra-Africa trade and investment overview <p>Appraising the foundations of international trade policy</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Theoretical foundations of international trade policy: Absolute Advantage, Comparative Advantage & Competitive Advantage, New Trade Theory (rationale for international trade, trade and development matters) ▪ Practical international trade policy matters: Trade Policy Management in the 21st century; scope of a 21st century trade policy strategy; intra-governmental coordination, role of non-state actors in the trade policy process; institutional architecture for trade policy making; trade negotiations and implementation of international trade agreements (country case studies by participants) <p>Foundations of international trade law</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Introduction to public international law: sources of international law, sovereign states, international trade and investment agreements, domestic implementation of agreements (constitutional provisions) – country case studies ▪ The multilateral trade system and its institutions ▪ Regional Trade Arrangements ▪ Dispute resolution and trade remedies <p>Current Issues in international trade governance</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The political economy of international trade negotiations ▪ The future of multilateral trade governance (US-China trade wars and bilateralism, Brexit, a future World Trade Organisation) ▪ Africa's integration agenda: from regional economic communities to continental integration and the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) ▪ Role of value chains and servicification of production (implications of technology developments for jobs etc) – implications for trade governance ▪ Digital economy developments (including fintech and e-commerce) ▪ Trade transaction costs and trade facilitation; trade remedies and safeguards ▪ Trade and development: distributional issues, gender, environment, climate change and youth

Module 2: A comprehensive International Trade Law and Policy agenda

Dates	11 – 15 May 2020
Topics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ Trade in goods: tariffs, rules of origin, non-tariff barriers▪ Trade facilitation (including, customs and border management, non-tariff barriers)▪ Standards (SPS and TBT) and quality infrastructure▪ Trade in services: market access; domestic regulation, regulatory reform and harmonisation (focus on key sectors and sectoral regulation e.g. financial services, transport, communications)▪ Competition Policy▪ Investment▪ Intellectual Property Rights▪ Dispute resolution

Module 3: Africa's trade and integration agenda – the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA), Regional Economic Communities and bilateral relations

Dates	6 – 10 July 2020
Topics	<ul style="list-style-type: none">▪ African integration: origins, substantive focus, achievements and challenges▪ Role of Institutions (African Union, Regional Institutions)▪ Regional Economic Communities (trade integration and broader development agenda) and the AfCFTA▪ Tripartite Free Trade Area and the AfCFTA▪ African Continental Free Trade Area: analysis of the Agreement establishing the AfCFTA, Protocol on Trade in Goods, Protocol on Trade in Services, Protocol on Dispute Resolution, ongoing negotiations in Phase 1 (tariff phasedown, rules of origin), Phase 2 negotiations (Investment, Competition, Intellectual Property, possible e-commerce)▪ The AfCFTA and Africa's global trade agenda: Economic Partnership Agreements and Brexit, AGOA, US- Kenya, China – US trade war, WTO (Doha development agenda)▪ Trade remedies and safeguards: how can we advance our industrialisation and economic development agendas, while complying with international legal obligations?▪ Implementing the AfCFTA: what happens now that the agreement has entered into force, but Phase 1 negotiations (tariff concessions, rules of origin, sector commitments for services) are still ongoing? How does Phase 2 enter into force?

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